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DECLARATION

In the name of the applicant

Elektromanufaktur Zangenstein Hanauer GmbH & Co. KG,

I hereby declare that the amendments to the introductory part of the description of present US patent application 09/993,200 relating to the disclosure of the German patents 195 40 843 (publication number DE 195 40 843 C2) and 198 37 248 (publication number DE 198 37 248 C2) do not extend beyond the disclosure of these German patents as originally incorporated by reference.

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GROUP 3600

Name of person signing: Dr. Axel von Hellfeld
Title of person: Representative of the Applicant
Address of person signing: Schweigerstr. 2, 81541 Munich, Germany

Signature:

A. v. Hellfeld

Date of signature:

23. 10. 03



DOOR LOCK

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DESCRIPTION

5 Field of the invention

The present invention relates to a door lock for electrical household appliances, such as washing machines, dishwashers and tumble driers, for example. In particular, the present invention relates to a door lock for electrical household
10 appliances in which the acting forces required for opening and closing the door lock for full opening and closing procedures of an appliance door essentially correspond to one another.

State of the art

15 A disadvantage in known door locks for household appliances, as are described, for example, in DE 195 40 843 C2 and DE 198 37 248 C2, is that the forces required for a full opening procedure of an appliance door (i.e. a transition of the door lock from the closed position to the open position) are
20 greater than the forces required for a closure (i.e. a transition from the open position to the closed position).

DE 198 37 248 C2 discloses a door lock for an electrical household appliance has a framework with an opening for a
25 hook, and in the framework a locking element and a locking spring which is arranged between the locking element and an abutment in the framework and is subjected to stressing when the door lock is in an open position, it being the case that the door lock has a movable gripping device which is connected
30 to the locking element and, when the door lock is in the open position, is pressed by the locking spring, at a contact location, against a part of the framework or in the framework and thus prevents the spring from being relieved of stressing, and the gripping device has a gripping latch into which the
35 hook can be guided as it comes in through the opening of the framework, and which has a contact surface on which the incoming hook presses and thus causes the gripping device to move, and the gripping device is formed such that, in the

event of movement, it loses the contact with the contact location and the locking spring can thus be relieved of stressing.

5 DE 195 40 843 C2 discloses a lock for a door of an electrical household appliance, particularly a washing machine, comprising a frame, a closing lever, a tensioning lever and a steering element. The closing lever is pivotable by means of
10 the closing lever is moved from a closing position for the door into a release position of the door. As a result, forces of the lock keeping the door closed in the closed position are not required to be overcome for opening the door.

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The different forces for opening and closing the door lock result, amongst other things, from the fact that appliance doors of electrical household appliances are usually prestressed in an open state, i.e. in the open position of the
20 door lock, in such a manner that the appliance door and therefore the door lock close automatically. If the angle of opening falls short of a predetermined angle of opening for the appliance door, so that a snap point for the door lock is reached, closing forces are generated by the door lock, which
25 suffice to fully close the appliance door without any forces having to be applied by a user. Furthermore, in the closed position of the door lock, i.e. in the closed state of the appliance door, a large force is usually present in order to reliably lock the appliance door. These holding-shut forces
30 existing in the closed